MARVEL COMICS
QUASAR
ATTACK OF THE QUANTUM BANDERS!
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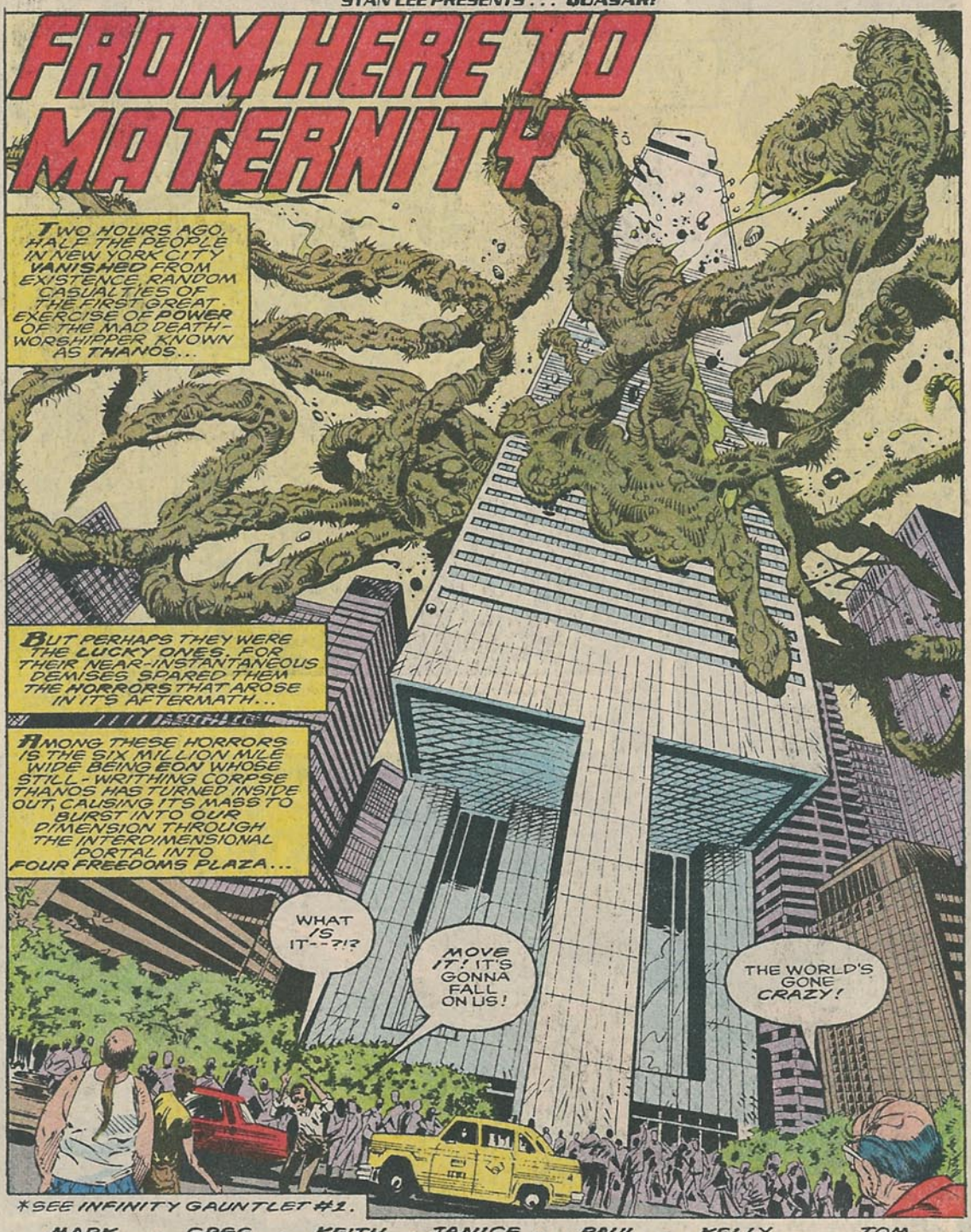
DAVE HOOVER
50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991

WENDELL VAUGHN . . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . QUASAR!

FROM HERE TO MATERNITY


TWO HOURS AGO, HALF THE PEOPLE IN NEW YORK CITY VANISHED FROM EXISTENCE, RANDOM CASUALTIES OF THE FIRST GREAT EXERCISE OF POWER OF THE MAD DEATH-WORSHIPPER KNOWN AS THANOS...
BUT PERHAPS THEY WERE THE LUCKY ONES, FOR THEIR NEAR-INSTANTANEOUS DEMISES SPARED THEM THE HORRORS THAT AROSE IN IT'S AFTERMATH...
AMONG THESE HORRORS IS THE SIX MILLION MILE WIDE BEING EON WHOSE STILL-WRITHING CORPSE THANOS HAS TURNED INSIDE OUT, CAUSING ITS MASS TO BURST INTO OUR DIMENSION THROUGH THE INTERDIMENSIONAL PORTAL INTO FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA...
WHAT IS IT--?!?
MOVE IT! IT'S GONNA FALL ON US!
THE WORLD'S GONE CRAZY!

*SEE INFINITY GAUNTLET #1.

MARK GRUENWALD WRITER • GREG CAPULLO PENCIL ART • KEITH WILLIAMS INK ART • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • PAUL BECTON COLORIST • KELLY CORVESE EDITOR • TOM DEFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

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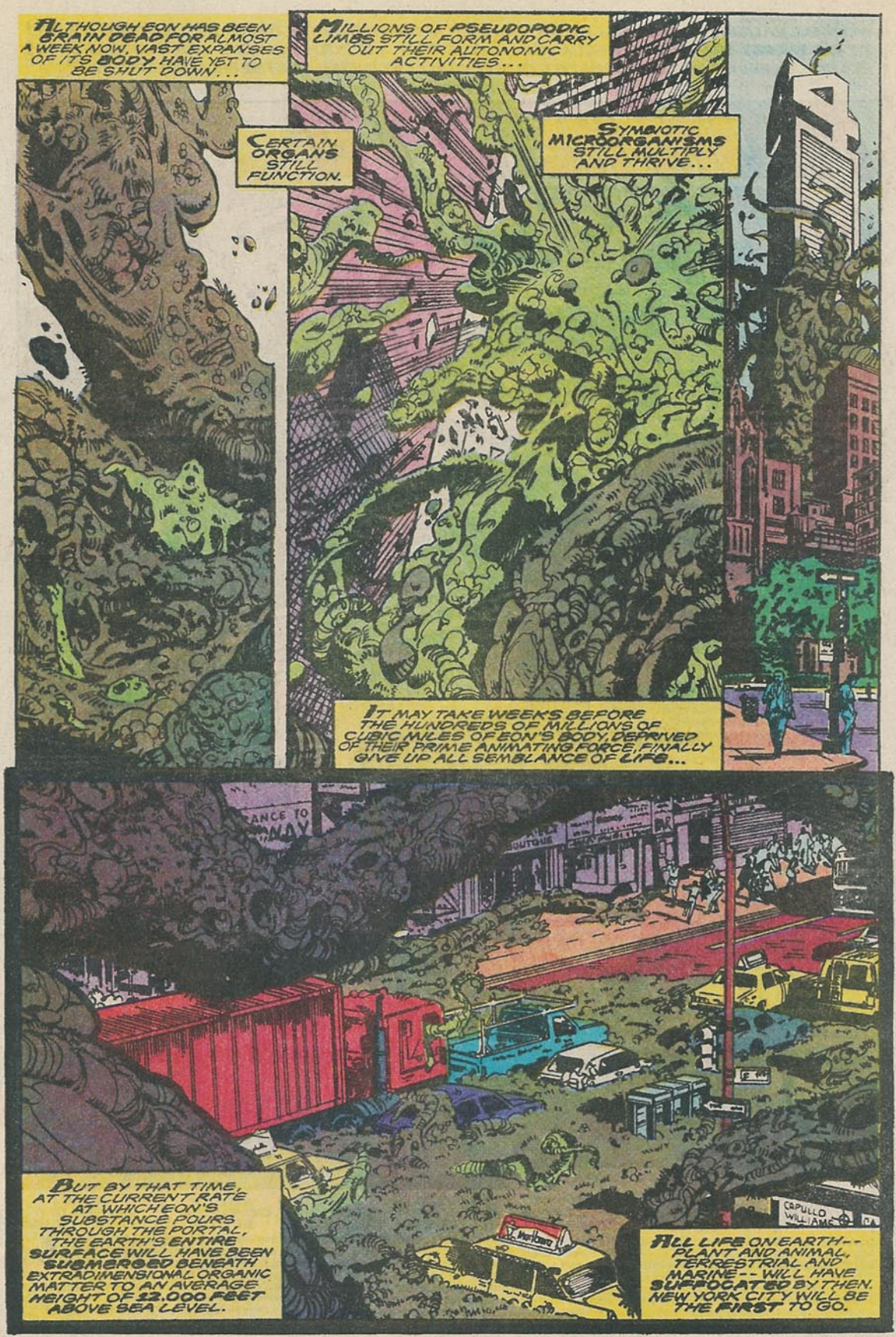
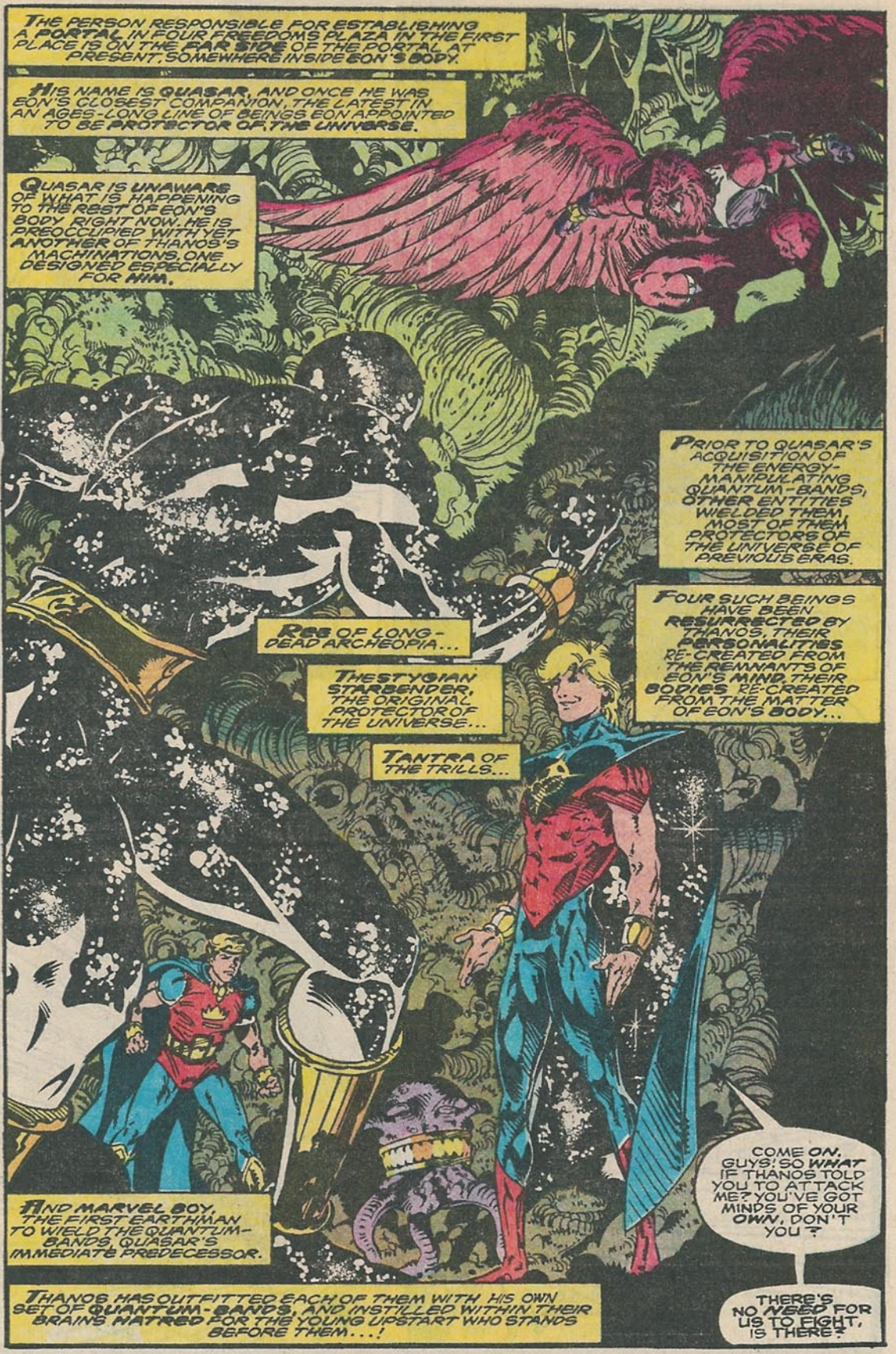
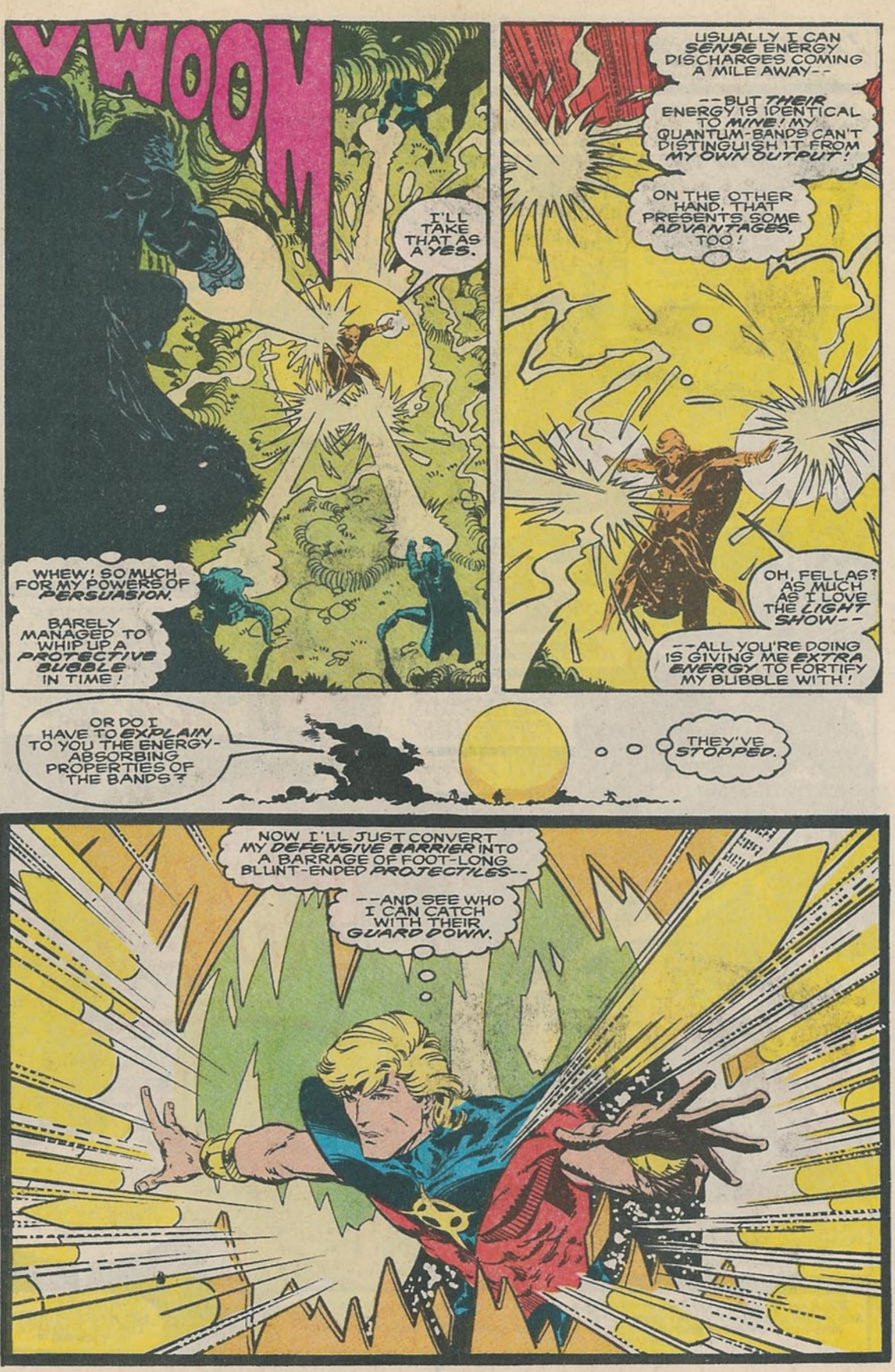
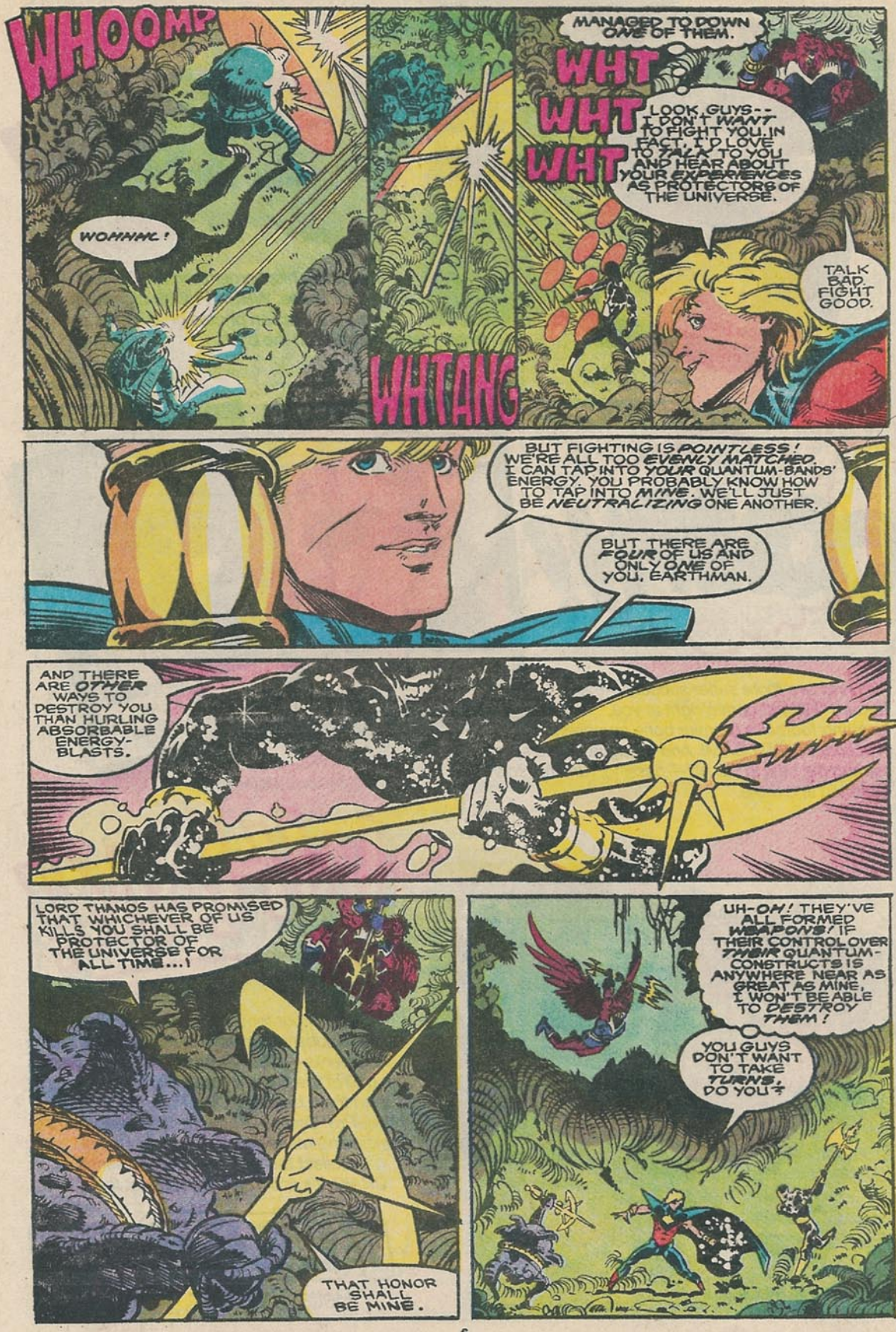
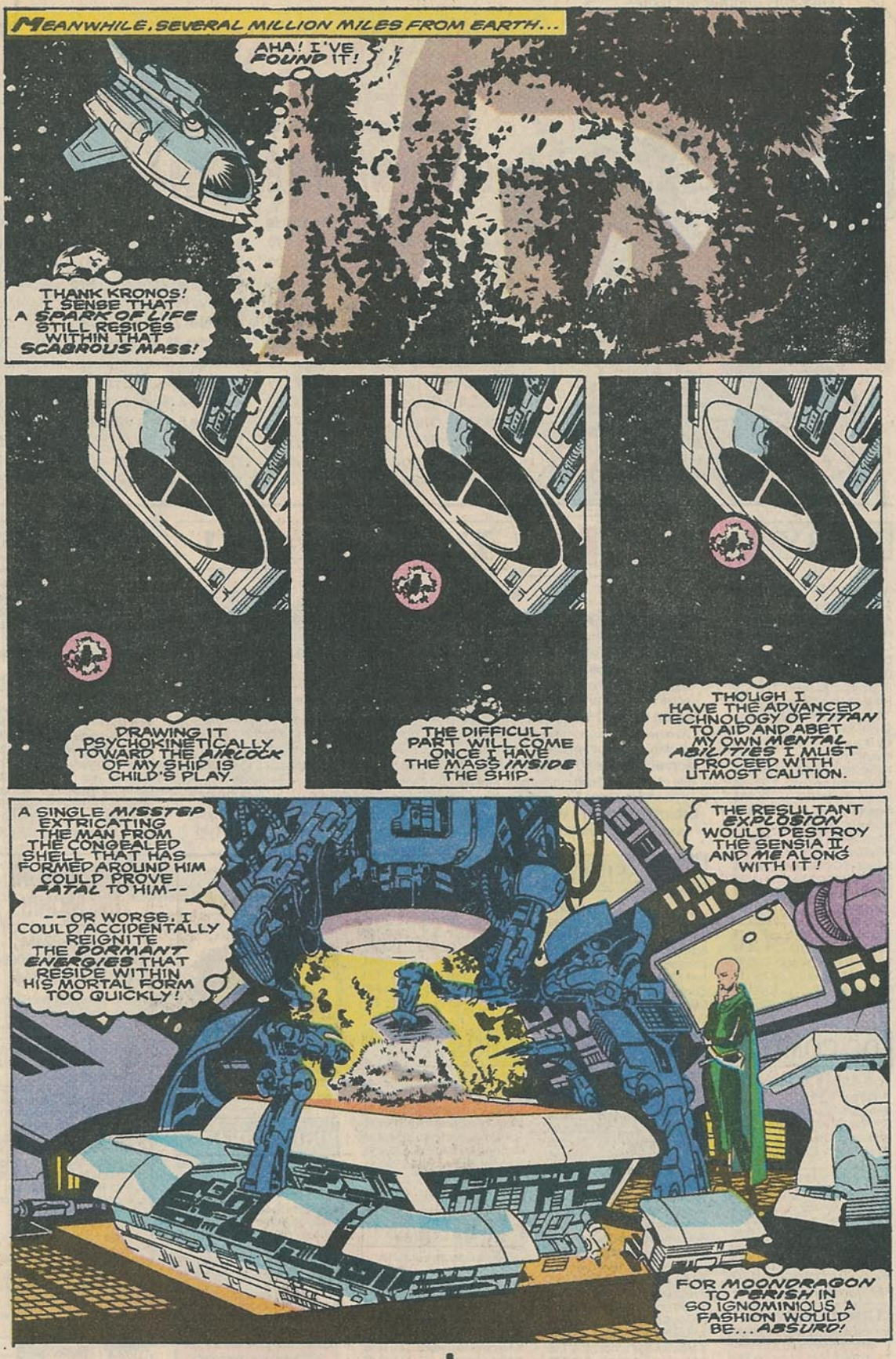
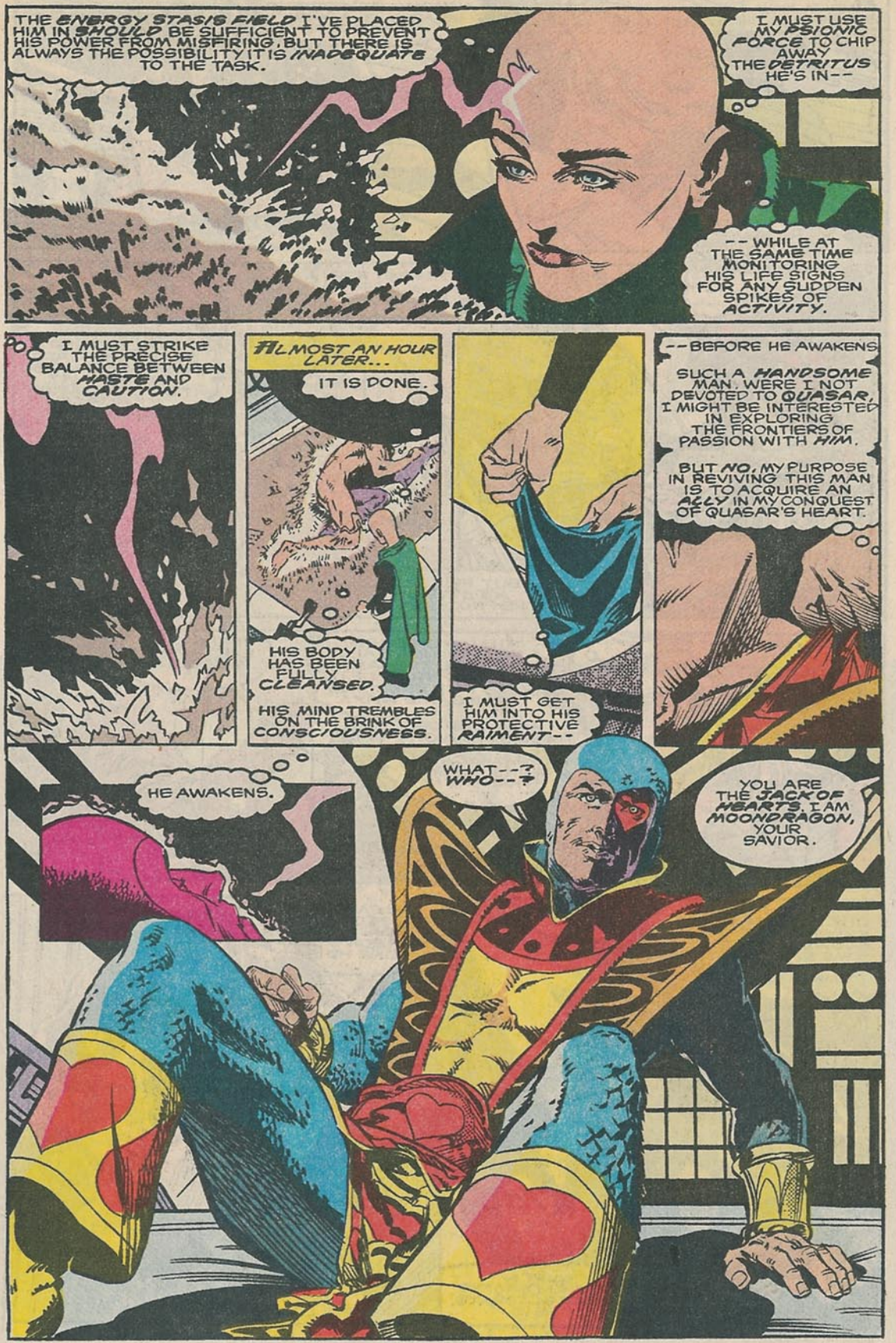

ALTHOUGH EON HAS BEEN BRAIN DEAD FOR ALMOST A WEEK NOW, VAST EXPANSES OF ITS BODY HAVE YET TO BE SHUT DOWN...
CERTAIN ORGANS STILL FUNCTION.
MILLIONS OF PSEUDOPODIC LIMBS STILL FORM AND CARRY OUT THEIR AUTONOMIC ACTIVITIES...
SYMBIOTIC MICROORGANISMS STILL MULTIPLY AND THRIVE...
IT MAY TAKE WEEKS BEFORE THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF CUBIC MILES OF EON'S BODY, DEPRIVED OF THEIR PRIME ANIMATING FORCE, FINALLY GIVE UP ALL SEMBLANCE OF LIFE...
BUT BY THAT TIME, AT THE CURRENT RATE AT WHICH EON'S SUBSTANCE POURS THROUGH THE PORTAL, THE EARTH'S ENTIRE SURFACE WILL HAVE BEEN SUBMERGED BENEATH EXTRADIMENSIONAL ORGANIC MATTER TO AN AVERAGE HEIGHT OF 22,000 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL.
ALL LIFE ON EARTH--PLANT AND ANIMAL, TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE--WILL HAVE SUFFOCATED BY THEN. NEW YORK CITY WILL BE THE FIRST TO GO.
CAPULLO WILLIAMS

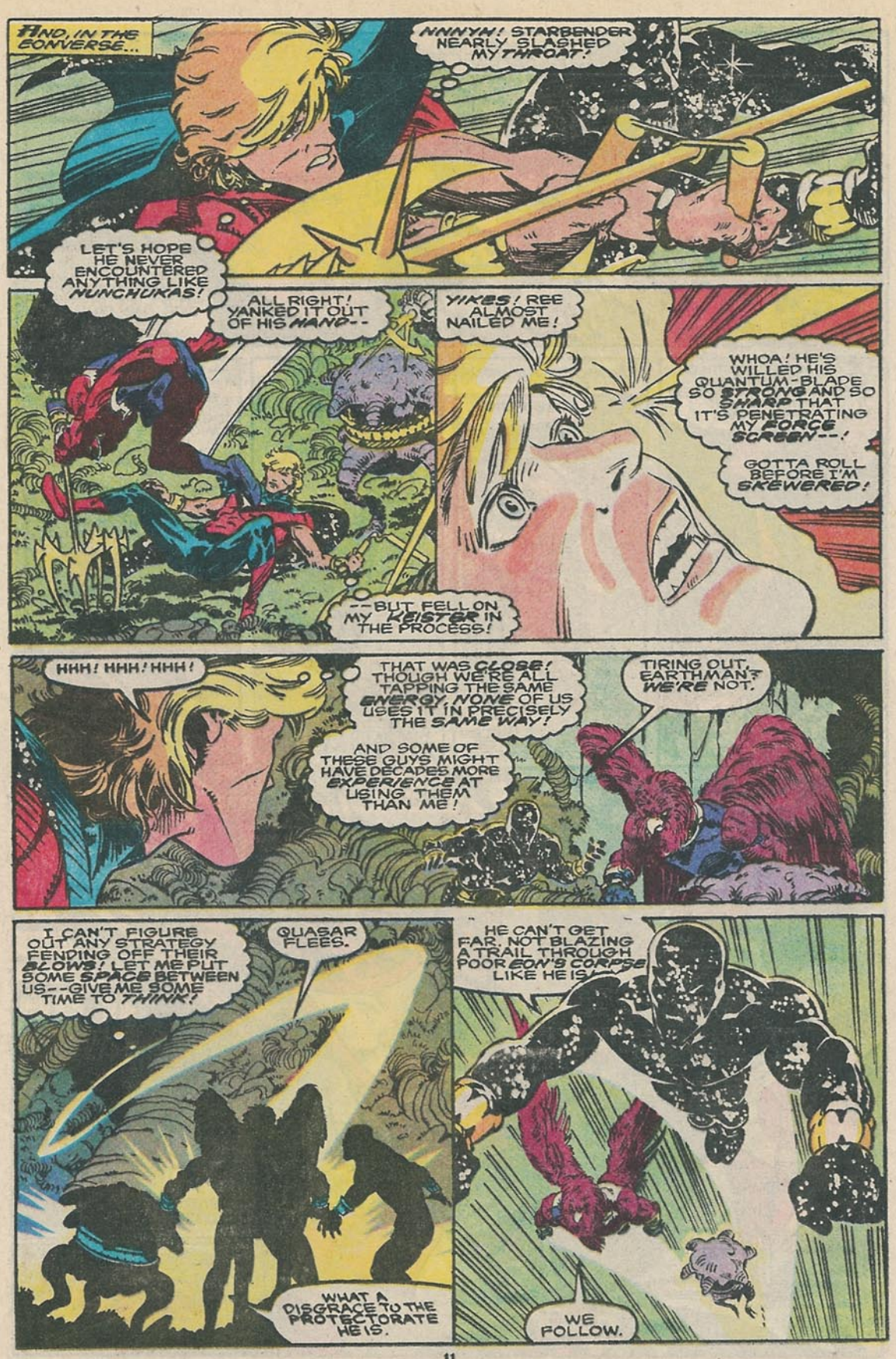

THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING A PORTAL IN FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA IN THE FIRST PLACE IS ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE PORTAL AT PRESENT, SOMEWHERE INSIDE EON'S BODY.
HIS NAME IS QUASAR, AND ONCE HE WAS EON'S CLOSEST COMPANION, THE LATEST IN AN AGES-LONG LINE OF BEINGS EON APPOINTED TO BE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.
QUASAR IS UNAWARE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE REST OF EON'S BODY RIGHT NOW. HE IS PREOCCUPIED WITH YET ANOTHER OF THANOS'S MACHINATIONS, ONE DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR HIM.
PRIOR TO QUASAR'S ACQUISITION OF THE ENERGY-MANIPULATING QUANTUM-BANDS, OTHER ENTITIES WIELDED THEM, MOST OF THEM PROTECTORS OF THE UNIVERSE OF PREVIOUS ERAS.
FOUR SUCH BEINGS HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED BY THANOS, THEIR PERSONALITIES RE-CREATED FROM THE REMNANTS OF EON'S MIND, THEIR BODIES RE-CREATED FROM THE MATTER OF EON'S BODY...
RAS OF LONG-DEAD ARCHEOPIA...
THESTYGIAN STARBENDER, THE ORIGINAL PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE...
TANTRA OF THE TRILLS...
AND MARVEL BOY, THE FIRST EARTHMAN TO WIELD THE QUANTUM-BANDS, QUASAR'S IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR.
THANOS HAS OUTFITTED EACH OF THEM WITH HIS OWN SET OF QUANTUM-BANDS, AND INSTILLED WITHIN THEIR BRAINS HATRED FOR THE YOUNG UPSTART WHO STANDS BEFORE THEM...!
COME ON, GUYS! SO WHAT IF THANOS TOLD YOU TO ATTACK ME? YOU'VE GOT MINDS OF YOUR OWN, DON'T YOU?
THERE'S NO NEED FOR US TO FIGHT, IS THERE?

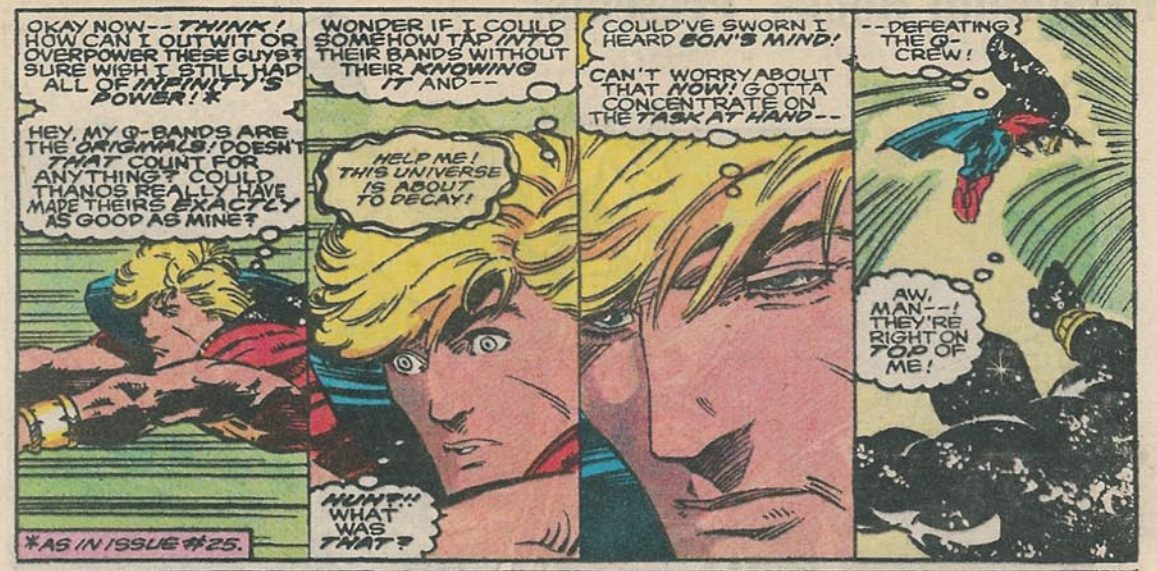

WHOOM
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES.
WHEW! SO MUCH FOR MY POWERS OF PERSUASION.
BARELY MANAGED TO WHIP UP A PROTECTIVE BUBBLE IN TIME!
USUALLY I CAN SENSE ENERGY DISCHARGES COMING A MILE AWAY--
--BUT THEIR ENERGY IS IDENTICAL TO MINE! MY QUANTUM-BANDS CAN'T DISTINGUISH IT FROM MY OWN OUTPUT!
ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT PRESENTS SOME ADVANTAGES, TOO!
OH, FELLAS? AS MUCH AS I LOVE THE LIGHT SHOW--
--ALL YOU'RE DOING IS GIVING ME EXTRA ENERGY TO FORTIFY MY BUBBLE WITH!
OR DO I HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU THE ENERGY-ABSORBING PROPERTIES OF THE BANDS?
THEY'VE STOPPED.
NOW I'LL JUST CONVERT MY DEFENSIVE BARRIER INTO A BARRAGE OF FOOT-LONG BLUNT-ENDED PROJECTILES--
--AND SEE WHO I CAN CATCH WITH THEIR GUARD DOWN.


WHOOMP
WOMMMM!
WHTANG
MANAGED TO DOWN ONE OF THEM.
WHT WHT WHT
LOOK, GUYS-- I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU. IN FACT, I'D LOVE TO TALK TO YOU AND HEAR ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES AS PROTECTORS OF THE UNIVERSE.
TALK BAD. FIGHT GOOD.
BUT FIGHTING IS POINTLESS! WE'RE ALL TOO EVENLY MATCHED. I CAN TAP INTO YOUR QUANTUM-BANDS' ENERGY. YOU PROBABLY KNOW HOW TO TAP INTO MINE. WE'LL JUST BE NEUTRALIZING ONE ANOTHER.
BUT THERE ARE FOUR OF US AND ONLY ONE OF YOU, EARTHMAN.
AND THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO DESTROY YOU THAN HURLING ABSORBABLE ENERGY-BLASTS.
LORD THANOS HAS PROMISED THAT WHICHEVER OF US KILLS YOU SHALL BE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE FOR ALL TIME...!
THAT HONOR SHALL BE MINE.
UH-OH! THEY'VE ALL FORMED WEAPONS! IF THEIR CONTROL OVER THEIR QUANTUM-CONSTRUCTS IS ANYWHERE NEAR AS GREAT AS MINE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO DESTROY THEM!
YOU GUYS DON'T WANT TO TAKE TURNS, DO YOU?

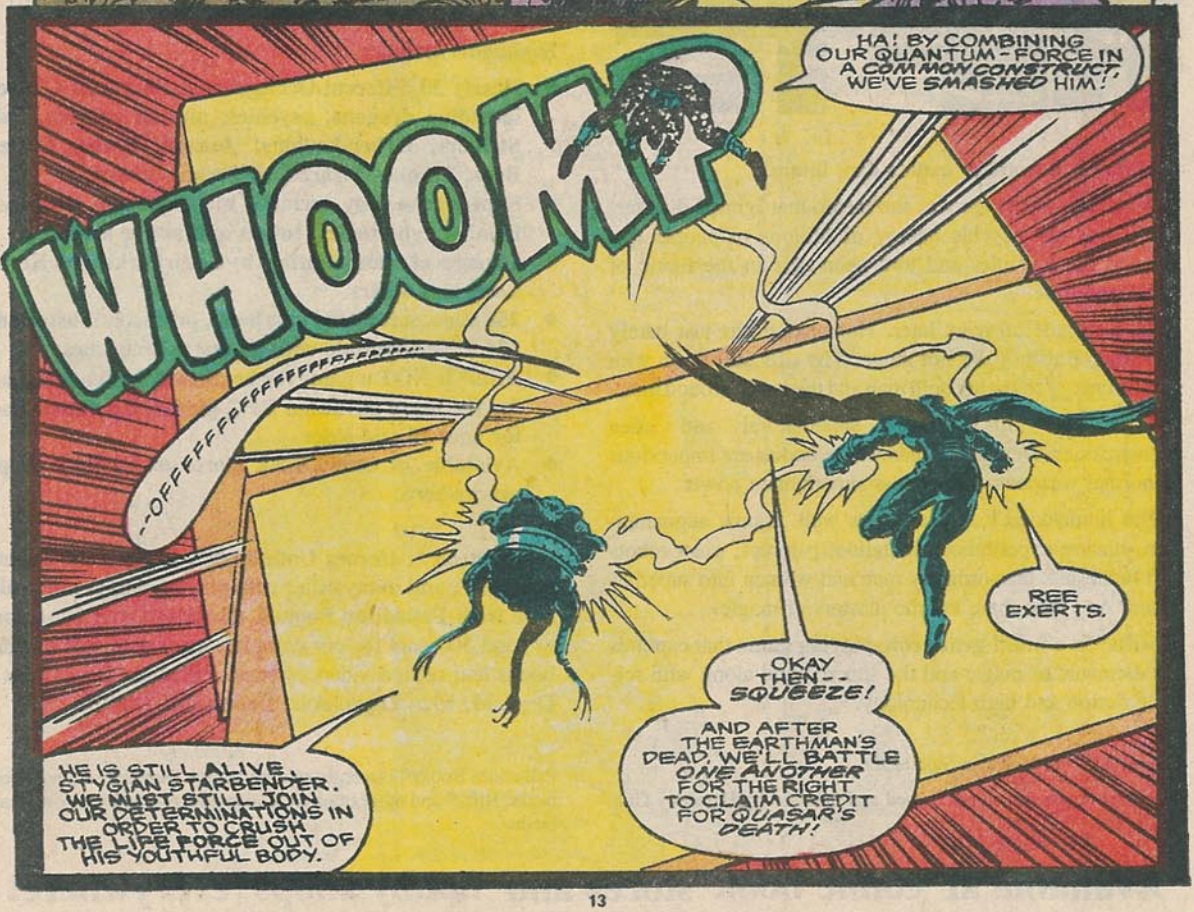

MEANWHILE, SEVERAL MILLION MILES FROM EARTH...
AHA! I'VE FOUND IT!
THANK KRONOS! I SENSE THAT A SPARK OF LIFE STILL RESIDES WITHIN THAT SCABROUS MASS!
DRAWING IT PSYCHOKINETICALLY TOWARD THE AIRLOCK OF MY SHIP IS CHILD'S PLAY.
THE DIFFICULT PART WILL COME ONCE I HAVE THE MASS INSIDE THE SHIP.
THOUGH I HAVE THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY OF TITAN TO AID AND ABET MY OWN MENTAL ABILITIES I MUST PROCEED WITH UTMOST CAUTION.
A SINGLE MISSTEP EXTRICATING THE MAN FROM THE CONGEALED SHELL THAT HAS FORMED AROUND HIM COULD PROVE FATAL TO HIM--
--OR WORSE, I COULD ACCIDENTALLY REIGNITE THE DORMANT ENERGIES THAT RESIDE WITHIN HIS MORTAL FORM TOO QUICKLY!
THE RESULTANT EXPLOSION WOULD DESTROY THE SENSIA II, AND ME ALONG WITH IT!
FOR MOONDRAGON TO PERISH IN SO IGNOMINIOUS A FASHION WOULD BE... ABSURD!

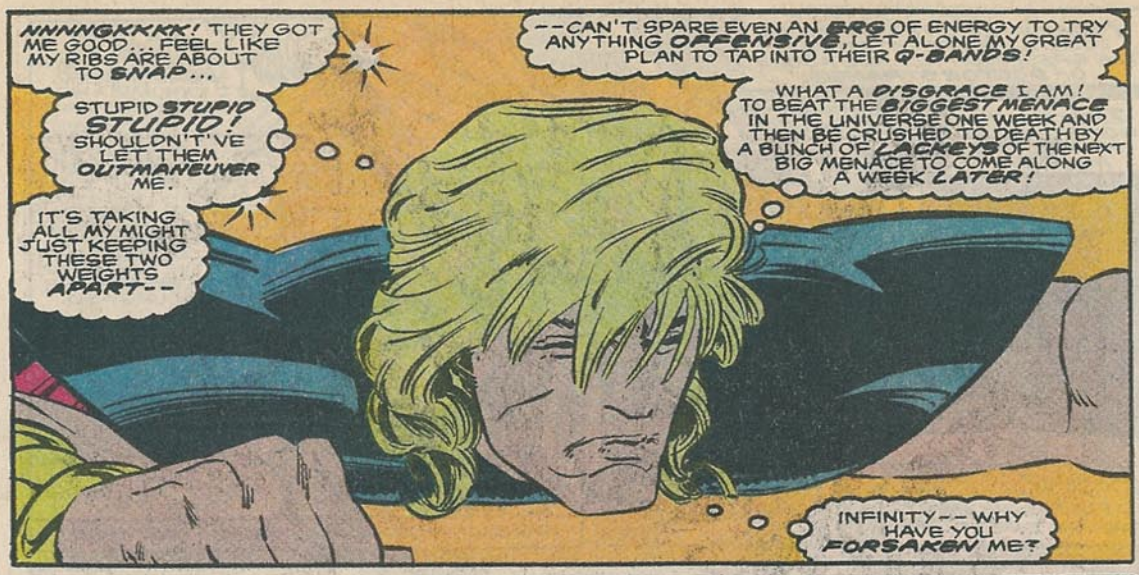

THE ENERGY STASIS FIELD I'VE PLACED HIM IN SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PREVENT HIS POWER FROM MISFIRING. BUT THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY IT IS INADEQUATE TO THE TASK.
I MUST USE MY PSIONIC FORCE TO CHIP AWAY THE DETRITUS HE'S IN--
--WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MONITORING HIS LIFE SIGNS FOR ANY SUDDEN SPIKES OF ACTIVITY.
I MUST STRIKE THE PRECISE BALANCE BETWEEN HASTE AND CAUTION.
ALMOST AN HOUR LATER...
IT IS DONE.
HIS BODY HAS BEEN FULLY CLEANSED.
HIS MIND TREMBLES ON THE BRINK OF CONSCIOUSNESS.
I MUST GET HIM INTO HIS PROTECTIVE RAIMENT--
--BEFORE HE AWAKENS.
SUCH A HANDSOME MAN. WERE I NOT DEVOTED TO QUASAR, I MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING THE FRONTIERS OF PASSION WITH HIM.
BUT NO, MY PURPOSE IN REVIVING THIS MAN IS TO ACQUIRE AN ALLY IN MY CONQUEST OF QUASAR'S HEART.
HE AWAKENS.
WHAT--? WHO--?
YOU ARE THE JACK OF HEARTS. I AM MOONDRAGON, YOUR SAVIOR.


AND, IN THE CONVERSE...
NNNYAH! STARBENDER NEARLY SLASHED MY THROAT!
LET'S HOPE HE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYTHING LIKE NUNCHUKAS!
ALL RIGHT! YANKED IT OUT OF HIS HAND--
--BUT FELL ON MY KEISTER IN THE PROCESS!
YIKES! REE ALMOST NAILED ME!
WHOA! HE'S WILLED HIS QUANTUM-BLADE SO STRONG AND SO SHARP THAT IT'S PENETRATING MY FORCE SCREEN--!
GOTTA ROLL BEFORE I'M SKEWERED!
HHH! HHH! HHH!
THAT WAS CLOSE! THOUGH WE'RE ALL TAPPING THE SAME ENERGY, NONE OF US USES IT IN PRECISELY THE SAME WAY!
AND SOME OF THESE GUYS MIGHT HAVE DECADES MORE EXPERIENCE AT USING THEM THAN ME!
TIRING OUT, EARTHMAN? WE'RE NOT.
I CAN'T FIGURE OUT ANY STRATEGY FENDING OFF THEIR BLOWS! LET ME PUT SOME SPACE BETWEEN US--GIVE ME SOME TIME TO THINK!
QUASAR FLEES.
WHAT A DISGRACE TO THE PROTECTORATE HE IS.
HE CAN'T GET FAR, NOT BLAZING A TRAIL THROUGH POOR EON'S CORPSE LIKE HE IS!
WE FOLLOW.

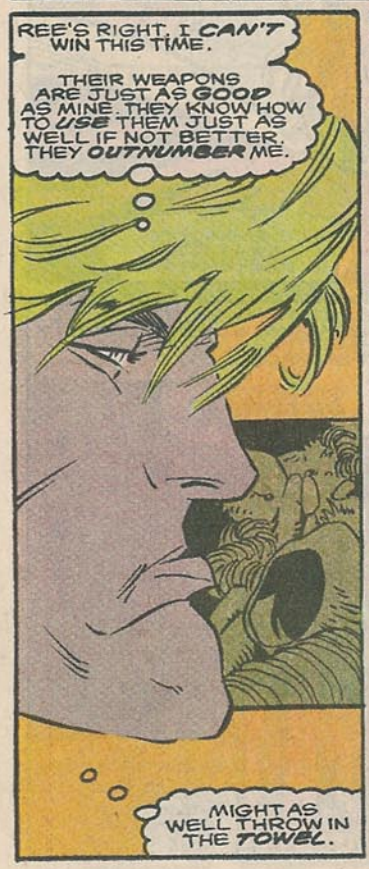

OKAY NOW-- THINK! HOW CAN I OUTWIT OR OVERPOWER THESE GUYS? SURE WISH I STILL HAD ALL OF INFINITY'S POWER!*
HEY, MY Q-BANDS ARE THE ORIGINALS! DOESN'T THAT COUNT FOR ANY THING? COULD THANOS REALLY HAVE MADE THEIRS EXACTLY AS GOOD AS MINE?
WONDER IF I COULD SOMEHOW TAP INTO THEIR BANDS WITHOUT THEIR KNOWING IT AND--
HELP ME! THIS UNIVERSE IS ABOUT TO DECAY!
HUH?! WHAT WAS THAT?
COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD EON'S MIND!
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW! GOTTA CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND--
--DEFEATING THE Q-CREW!
AW, MAN--! THEY'RE RIGHT ON TOP OF ME!
*AS IN ISSUE #25.

GOT TO TRY THE TOTAL ENERGY DRAIN--

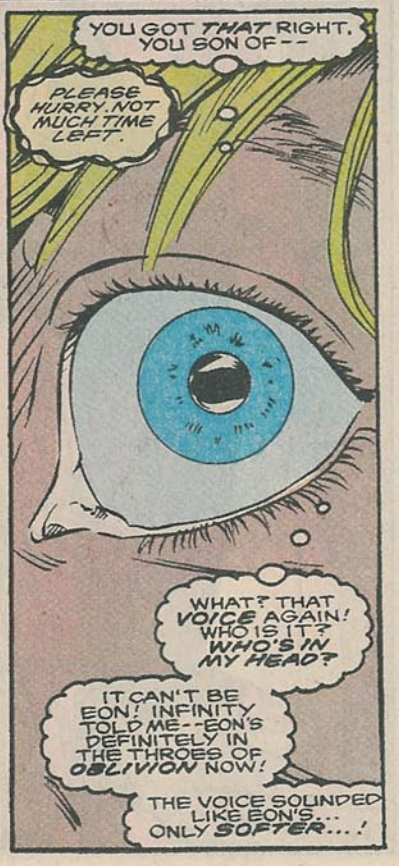

WHOOM!
--OFFF


NNNNGKKKK! THEY GOT ME GOOD.. FEEL LIKE MY RIBS ARE ABOUT TO SNAP...
STUPID STUPID STUPID! SHOULDN'T'VE LET THEM OUTMANEUVER ME.
IT'S TAKING ALL MY MIGHT JUST KEEPING THESE TWO WEIGHTS APART--
--CAN'T SPARE EVEN AN ERG OF ENERGY TO TRY ANYTHING OFFENSIVE, LET ALONE MY GREAT PLAN TO TAP INTO THEIR Q-BANDS!
WHAT A DISGRACE I AM! TO BEAT THE BIGGEST MENACE IN THE UNIVERSE ONE WEEK AND THEN BE CRUSHED TO DEATH BY A BUNCH OF LACKEYS OF THE NEXT BIG MENACE TO COME ALONG A WEEK LATER!
INFINITY--WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

THE EARTHMAN SEEMS TO BE TURNING PURPLE. I THINK HE IS LOSING OUR CONTEST OF WILLS.
THREE AGAINST ONE CANNOT WIN.


REE'S RIGHT. I CAN'T WIN THIS TIME.
THEIR WEAPONS ARE JUST AS GOOD AS MINE. THEY KNOW HOW TO USE THEM JUST AS WELL IF NOT BETTER. THEY OUTNUMBER ME.
MIGHT AS WELL THROW IN THE TOWEL.

NO, BLAST IT! GOTTA STIFLE MY DEFEATIST TENDENCIES! WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE THESE DARK URGES?
I'M A HERO! I'VE TRIUMPHED OVER IMPOSSIBLE ODDS BEFORE! I'M THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE--NOT THESE BOZOS!
SOMEHOW I'M GONNA FIND A WAY TO WIN--I'VE GOT TO!
HE WEAKENING?
THOUGHT HE WAS. BUT HE'S MANAGED TO RENEW HIS RESISTANCE.


YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, YOU SON OF--
PLEASE HURRY. NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.
WHAT? THAT VOICE AGAIN! WHO IS IT? WHO'S IN MY HEAD?
IT CAN'T BE EON! INFINITY TOLD ME--EON'S DEFINITELY IN THE THROES OF OBLIVION NOW!
THE VOICE SOUNDED LIKE EON'S... ONLY SOFTER...!

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH, EON'S SUBSTANCE HAS YET TO REACH THE GREENWICH VILLAGE ABODE OF DOCTOR STRANGE.

THE COSMIC WOMAN KNOWN AS HER HAS, HOWEVER.

THIS IS IT. THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT OF MY LIFE SO FAR. THE DAY I BEGIN TO FULFILL MY DESTINY. THE DAY I MEET... HIM!

ALL THESE YEARS I THOUGHT HIM DEAD. INDEED, I EXHUMED HIS LIFELESS BODY.* BUT NOW, MIRACULOUSLY, HE HAS BEEN RESTORED TO LIFE.

I SENSED HIS PRESENCE HERE WHEN I CONVERSED WITH THE SILVER SURFER MERE HOURS AGO.

I SHALL-- WAIT! THE DOORS OPEN. IT'S--

*WAY BACK IN MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #63!

--HIM!

WHO ARE YOU, WOMAN? WHY ARE YOU CLAD IN GARMENT IDENTICAL TO WHAT I ONCE WORE.

CAN YOU NOT SENSE WHO I AM? I AM YOUR FEMALE COUNTERPART--THE SECOND CREATION OF THOSE SCIENTISTS WHO CREATED YOU.

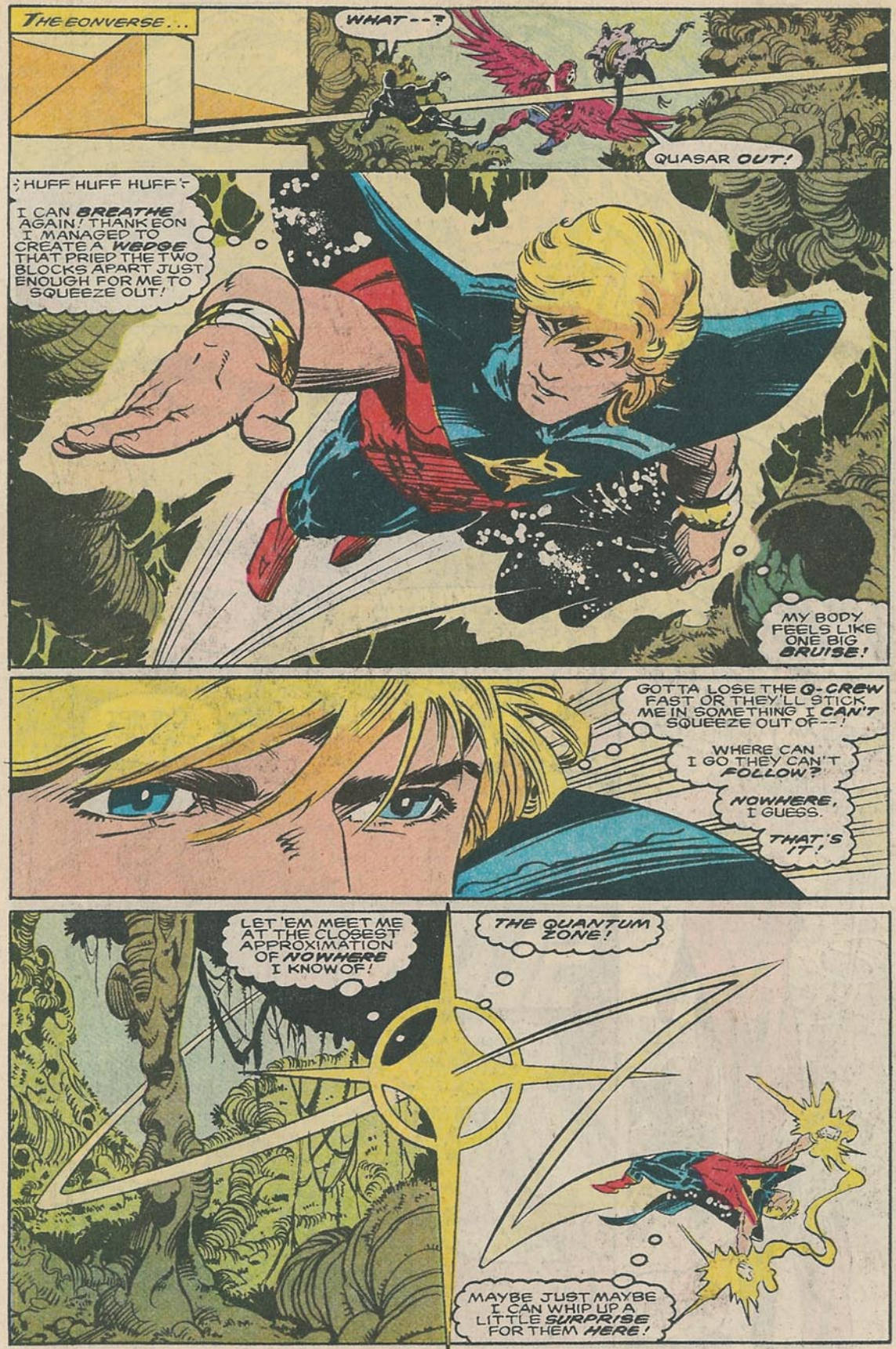
I'VE FASHIONED THIS ATTIRE IN YOUR HONOR...

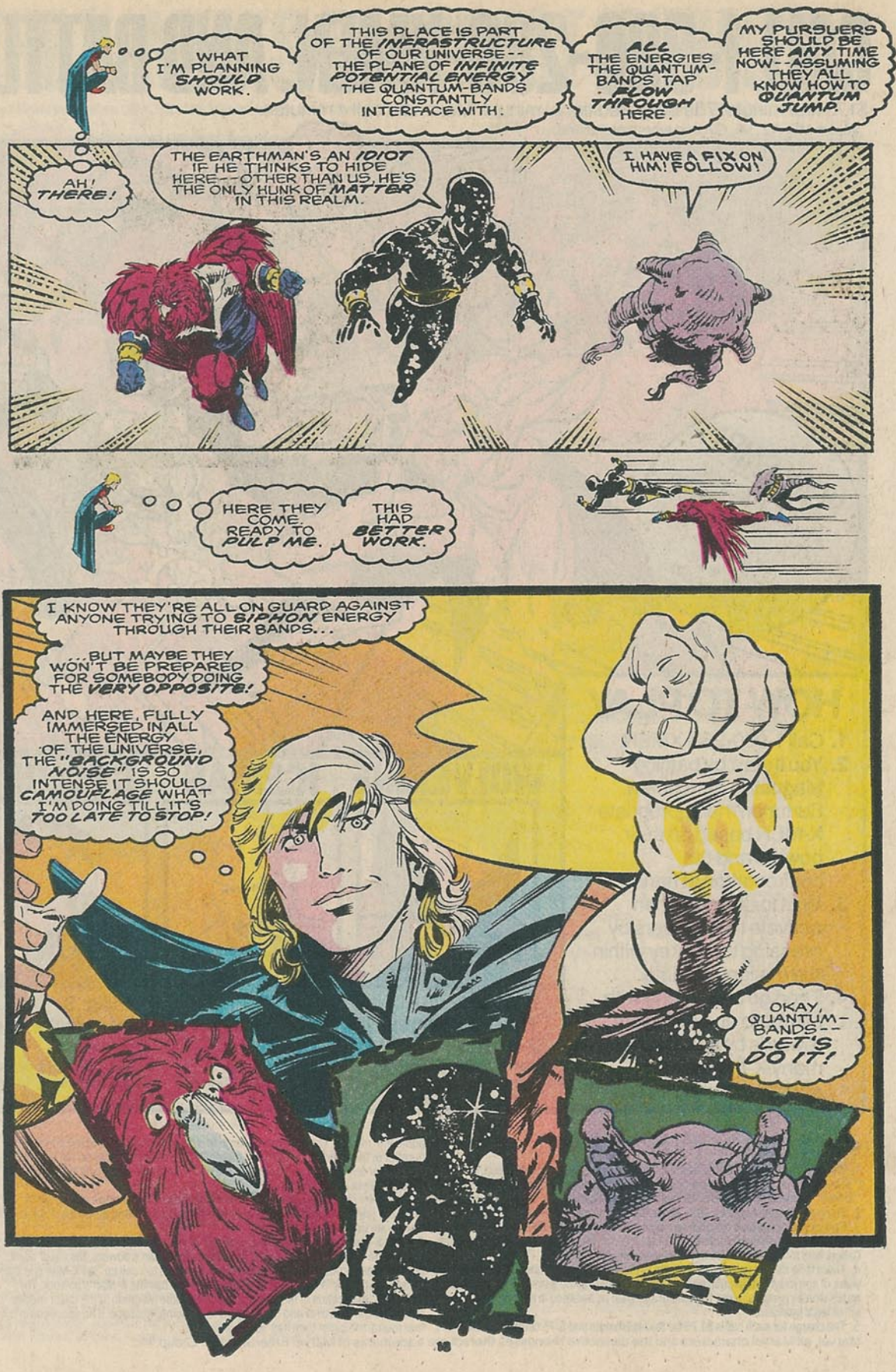
I AM IN THE MIDST OF SOMETHING OF UNIVERSE-RENDING CONSEQUENCE.* I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR RIDDLES OR DISTRACTIONS.

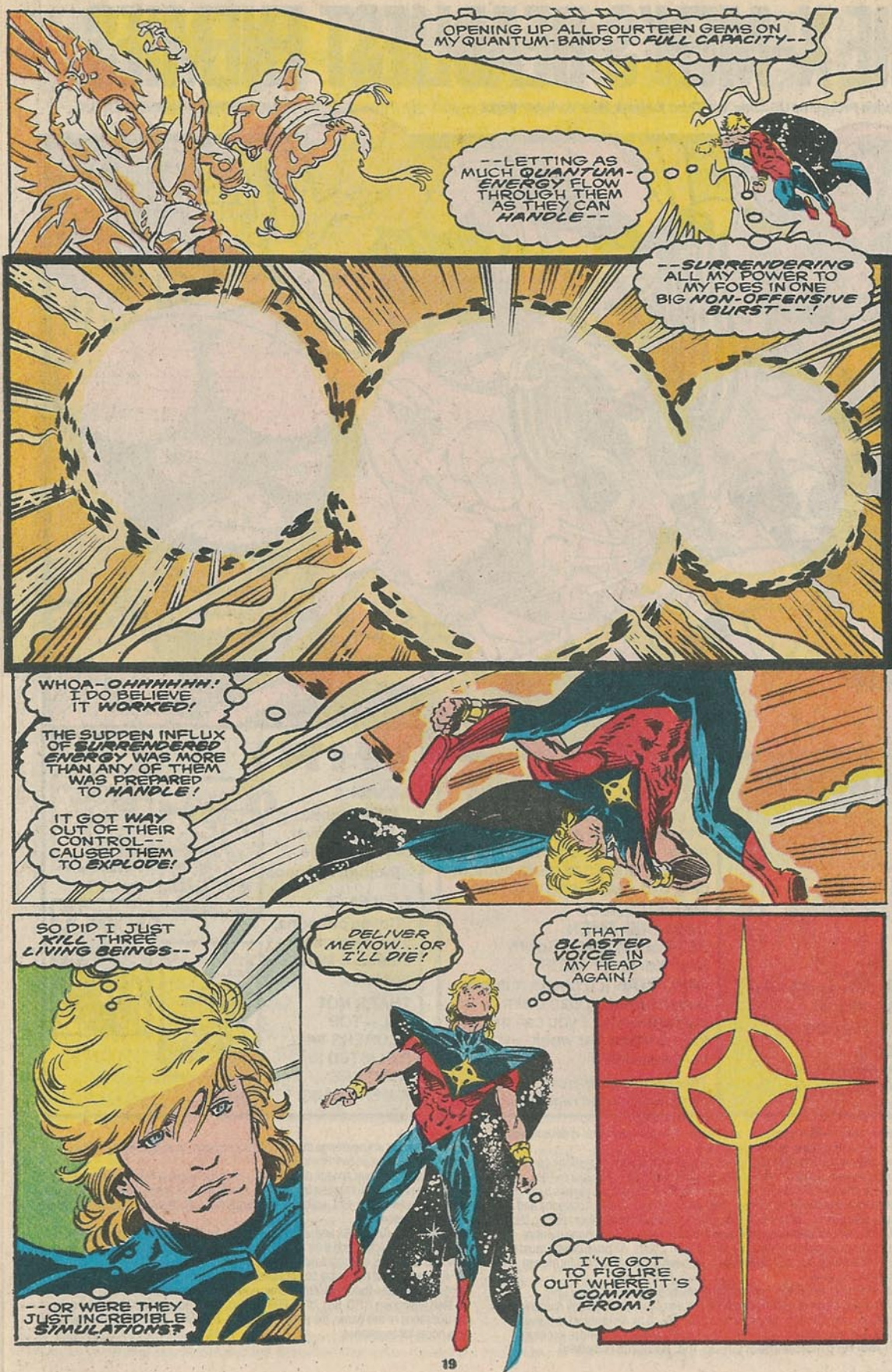
STATE YOUR BUSINESS, DOPPELGANGER.

*NO EXAGGERATION. SEE INFINITY GAUNTLET, CURRENTLY ON SALE!

MY BUSINESS... IS TO PROCREATE. WITH YOU.
IT IS OUR DESTINY TO BECOME MOTHER AND FATHER TO A NEW HUMAN RACE, A GOLDEN RACE OF WONDROUS BEINGS, WHO WILL GROW TO BECOME THE CROWNING GLORY OF THE ENTIRE COSMOS...!
THAT MAY BE YOUR DESTINY, WOMAN.
BUT IT IS NOT MINE.
PROCREATION IS RIDICULOUS TO EVEN CONSIDER IN THE MIDST OF THE UNIVERSAL CONFLAGRATION THAT SURROUNDS US.
JOIN THE FIGHT... OR BEGONE.
I...I AM NOT...
WAIT! YOU CAN'T GO!
I WON'T LET YOU!
I'VE GOT TO MAKE YOU SEE--
SLAM
I COULD NOT USE FORCE. NOT AGAINST HIM.
I'M SO CONFUSED.
WHAT DO I DO NOW...?


THE CONVERSE...
WHAT--?
QUASAR OUT!
HUFF HUFF HUFF
I CAN BREATHE AGAIN! THANK EON I MANAGED TO CREATE A WEDGE THAT PRIED THE TWO BLOCKS APART JUST ENOUGH FOR ME TO SQUEEZE OUT!
MY BODY FEELS LIKE ONE BIG BRUISE!
GOTTA LOSE THE Q-CREW FAST OR THEY'LL STICK ME IN SOMETHING I CAN'T SQUEEZE OUT OF--!
WHERE CAN I GO THEY CAN'T FOLLOW?
NOWHERE, I GUESS.
THAT'S IT!
LET 'EM MEET ME AT THE CLOSEST APPROXIMATION OF NOWHERE I KNOW OF!
THE QUANTUM ZONE!
MAYBE JUST MAYBE I CAN WHIP UP A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR THEM HERE!


WHAT I'M PLANNING SHOULD WORK.
THIS PLACE IS PART OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF OUR UNIVERSE--THE PLANE OF INFINITE POTENTIAL ENERGY THE QUANTUM-BANDS CONSTANTLY INTERFACE WITH.
ALL THE ENERGIES THE QUANTUM-BANDS TAP FLOW THROUGH HERE.
MY PURSUERS SHOULD BE HERE ANY TIME NOW--ASSUMING THEY ALL KNOW HOW TO QUANTUM JUMP.
AH! THERE!
THE EARTHMAN'S AN IDIOT IF HE THINKS TO HIDE HERE--OTHER THAN US, HE'S THE ONLY HUNK OF MATTER IN THIS REALM.
I HAVE A FIX ON HIM! FOLLOW!
HERE THEY COME. READY TO PULP ME.
THIS HAD BETTER WORK.
I KNOW THEY'RE ALL ON GUARD AGAINST ANYONE TRYING TO SIPHON ENERGY THROUGH THEIR BANDS...
...BUT MAYBE THEY WON'T BE PREPARED FOR SOMEBODY DOING THE VERY OPPOSITE!
AND HERE, FULLY IMMERSED IN ALL THE ENERGY OF THE UNIVERSE, THE "BACKGROUND NOISE" IS SO INTENSE IT SHOULD CAMOUFLAGE WHAT I'M DOING TILL IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP!
OKAY, QUANTUM-BANDS--LET'S DO IT!


OPENING UP ALL FOURTEEN GEMS ON MY QUANTUM-BANDS TO FULL CAPACITY--
--LETTING AS MUCH QUANTUM-ENERGY FLOW THROUGH THEM AS THEY CAN HANDLE--
--SURRENDERING ALL MY POWER TO MY FOES IN ONE BIG NON-OFFENSIVE BURST--!
WHOA--OHMMMHH! I DO BELIEVE IT WORKED!
THE SUDDEN INFLUX OF SURRENDERED ENERGY WAS MORE THAN ANY OF THEM WAS PREPARED TO HANDLE!
IT GOT WAY OUT OF THEIR CONTROL-- CAUSED THEM TO EXPLODE!
SO DID I JUST KILL THREE LIVING BEINGS--
--OR WERE THEY JUST INCREDIBLE SIMULATIONS?
DELIVER ME NOW...OR I'LL DIE!
THAT BLASTED VOICE IN MY HEAD AGAIN!
I'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHERE IT'S COMING FROM!

MEANWHILE, IN NEW YORK CITY, EON'S BODY HAS NOW CLAIMED AN AREA OF THIRTY SOME BLOCKS...
...WHILE THE REGION'S VARIOUS SUPER-CHAMPIONS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN RECRUITED BY ADAM WARLOCK TO BATTLE THANOS PITCH IN TO TRY TO SAVE MANHATTAN'S POPULACE FROM THANOS'S DEPREDATIONS...
I'LL TRY TO POWER-PRISM A WALL AROUND THIS THING! YOU GUYS TRY TO AIRLIFT EVERYONE YOU CAN BEHIND MY BARRIER!
YOU GOT IT, SPECTRUM! SQUADRON--FAN OUT!
Bioanalysis of oozing substance inconclusive. It is not terrestrial in origin.
SOME HELP YOU ARE, COMPUTER!
THE NAME'S HYPERION AND THIS IS THE SHAPE. GET ON QUICKLY. WE'LL TAKE YOU TO SAFETY!
B-BUT MY HUSBAND--HE'S STILL INSIDE SOMEWHERE--!
I'M SORRY, MA'AM.
THIS IS NUTS! THIS IS LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A 50'S SCI-FI FLICK!

IT'S BAD, MOONGLOW--HAVEN'T EVEN MADE IT ALL THE WAY AROUND THIS THING YET, AND IT'S ALREADY STARTING TO FLOW OVER THE TOP OF MY BARRIER!
MY MYSTICAL ENERGIES HAVE PRECIOUS LITTLE EFFECT UPON IT!
EASY, MA'AM. YOU'LL BE SAFE ON TOP OF THIS WALL.
HOPELESS.
WHAT IS THIS EFFLUVIA?
PERHAPS WARLOCK WAS RIGHT IN SAYING THE UNIVERSE WAS IN GREAT JEOPARDY.
I MUST PREVENT THIS SLIME FROM REACHING THE DWELLING HE IS IN!
MADNESS! ABSOLUTE MADNESS!
THESE HURRICANE WINDS WE'RE WHIPPING UP AREN'T DOING MUCH GOOD!
IF WE CAN SLOW THE CREEPING SLIME EVEN A BIT, WHIZZER, WE'LL BE BUYING TIME FOR SOME POOR SHMOES!
CONRAD'S
JACK! THERE'S GREAT PSYCHIC CLAMOR IN MANHATTAN!
I'M ON IT, MISTRESS!
DIG A DEEP TRENCH FOR THIS GLOP TO DROP INTO!
GOD, IT FEELS GREAT TO MOVE AGAIN--TO LET LOOSE THE ZERO-ENERGY THAT'S BEEN CLOGGED UP INSIDE ME!
LOOK OUT, WORLD--THE JACK OF HEARTS IS BACK!

THE CONVERSE...
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
IS IT MY IMAGINATION OR IS THE STUFF OF EON'S BODY GETTING A LITTLE SPARSE HERE?
COULD HIS MATTER BE DECAYING THIS FAST OR--
HOLY SPUMONI! IT LOOKS LIKE SLUDGE SWIRLING DOWN A DRAIN!
BUT WHERE'S EON'S BODY GOING TO? WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DRAINHOLE?
HELP ME...I'M FRIGHTENED! I'M NOT GOING TO...!
NO TIME TO PLAY PLUMBER. GOT TO HOME IN ON THAT MENTAL VOICE!
HEY, VOICE. I'M COMING. WHERE ARE YOU? SPEAK TO ME.
VOICE...?
I'M RIGHT AHEAD OF YOU! PLEASE HURRY...!
IF YOU DO NOT UNTETHER ME FROM MY MOTHER'S BODY, I WILL NOT SURVIVE THE PASSAGE OUT OF THIS SPACE!
"MOTHER'S BODY"?
IS...IS THIS YOU?
YES.
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF EGG. IS IT SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE? WHAT'S INSIDE IT?
NGUHH!

FORGOT ABOUT ME, DIDN'T YOU?

MARVEL BOY...?

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN THE *LAST GUY* TO WEAR THESE BANDS FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME BEFORE *I* DID--

--BUT YOU NEVER WERE ONE OF *EON'S CHOSEN!*

SO *BUZZ OFF* BEFORE I GET *REALLY MAD!*

WHOUUFF!

SO...YOU'RE *EON'S OFFSPRING* OR SOMETHING?

I AM.

AND YOU WANT ME TO *SEPARATE* YOU FROM...?

FROM *EON'S WOMB.*

AND TAKE YOU *OUT* OF HERE?

PROTECT ME WITH YOUR POWER.

AND MINUTES LATER...

WHAT?!? THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DRAINHOLE EON WAS SWIRLING THROUGH--WAS MY *OFFICE?!?*

THAT BLASTED *THANOS! HE* DID THIS!

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO HAVE TO--*NNNGH!*--PLUG UP THE PASSAGEWAY WITH THE *DADDY OF ALL DOORS!*

SQWUMP

OKAY, LITTLE EGG. WE'RE **SAFE** AND **SOUND** FOR THE TIME BEING. NOW LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...EON'S YOUR **MOTHER**--?

NO TIME TO SPEAK.

I'VE **HELD BACK** AS LONG AS I CAN.

I'M ABOUT TO **HATCH**.

DID I DO THE **RIGHT THING** BRINGING THIS THING HERE?

HOW DO I **KNOW** IT'S EON'S CHILD AND NOT SOMETHING ELSE **THANOS** CREATED...?

HELLO, PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. I'M **EPOCH**, EON'S SUCCESSOR.

A **BABY** EON...!

DUE TO THANOS'S RENDING OF MY **MOTHER'S BODY**, I COULD NOT HATCH **NATURALLY** AS I WAS MEANT TO.

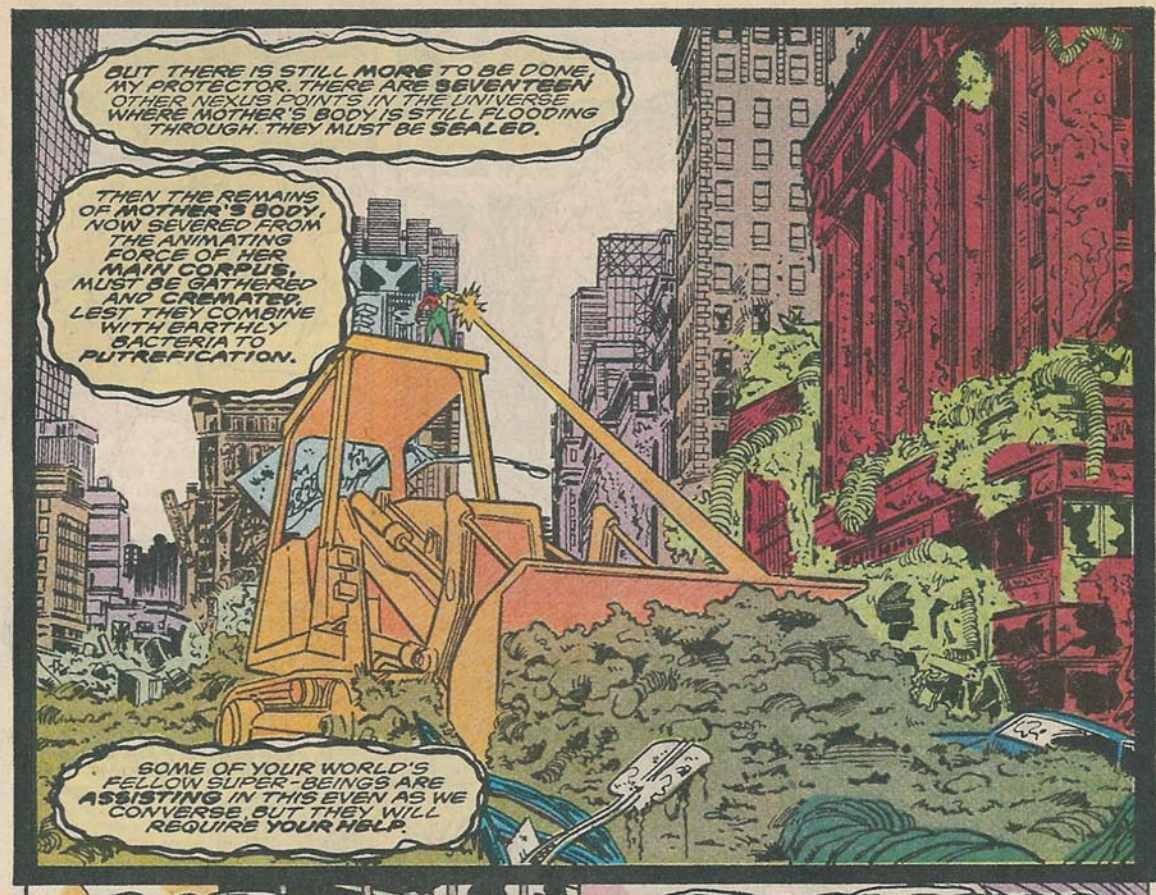
HAD I NOT **BEEN** REMOVED FROM THE **WOMB**, I WOULD HAVE BEEN **STILLBORN**.

SO... I JUST PERFORMED A **CAESARIAN SECTION** ON AN ALIEN LIFE FORM!

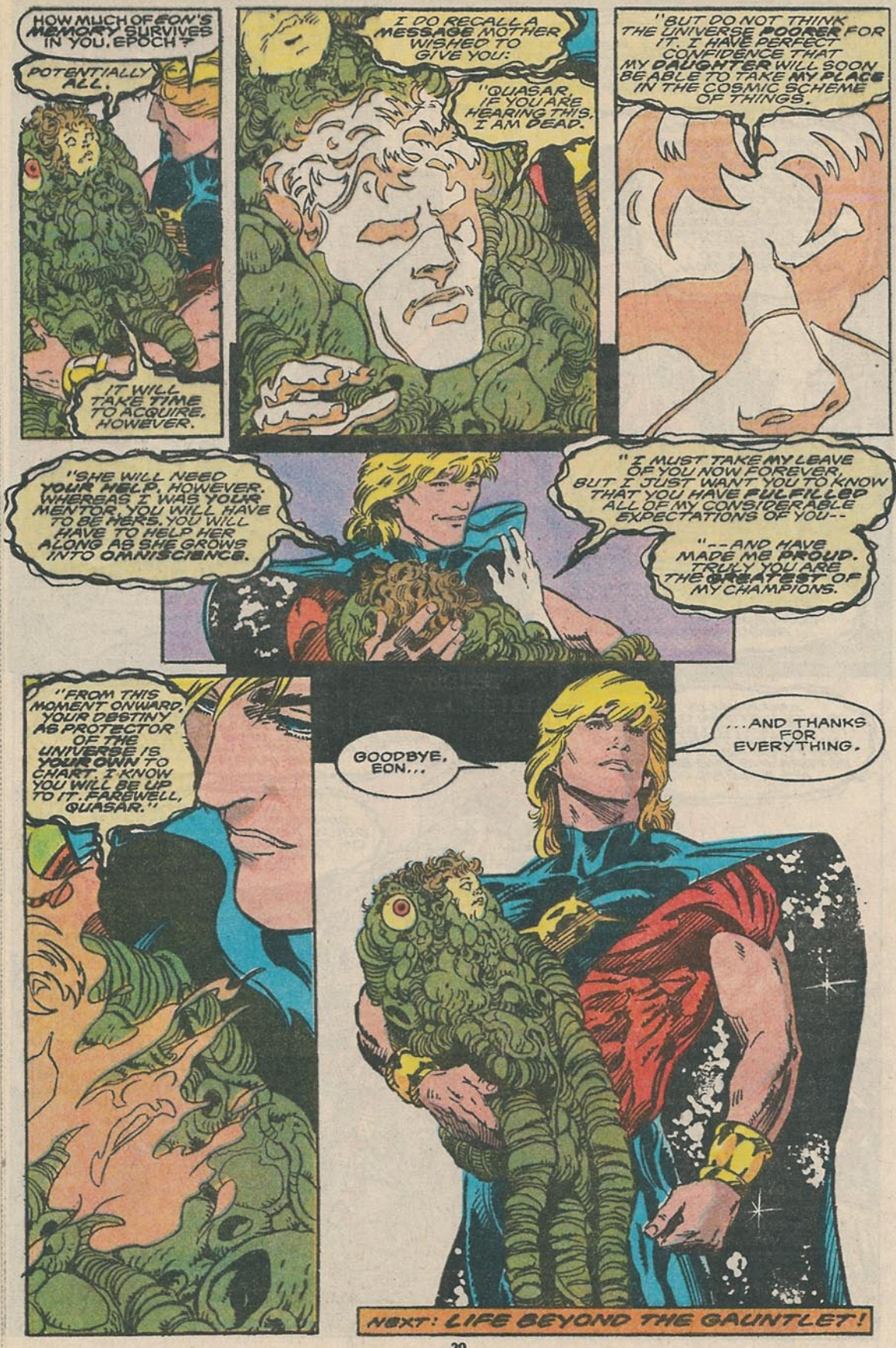
I OWE YOU MY LIFE, QUASAR.

EON'S CONTINUITY SHALL **ENDURE** THANKS TO YOU.

THAT'S... **WONDERFUL**!


BUT THERE IS STILL MORE TO BE DONE, MY PROTECTOR. THERE ARE SEVENTEEN OTHER NEXUS POINTS IN THE UNIVERSE WHERE MOTHER'S BODY IS STILL FLOODING THROUGH. THEY MUST BE SEALED.
THEN THE REMAINS OF MOTHER'S BODY, NOW SEVERED FROM THE ANIMATING FORCE OF HER MAIN CORPUS, MUST BE GATHERED AND CREMATED, LEST THEY COMBINE WITH EARTHLY BACTERIA TO PUTREFICATION.
SOME OF YOUR WORLD'S FELLOW SUPER-BEINGS ARE ASSISTING IN THIS EVEN AS WE CONVERSE, BUT THEY WILL REQUIRE YOUR HELP.

AND FINALLY, THERE IS THE MATTER OF THANOS. IT IS STILL TOO SOON AFTER MY BIRTH TRAUMA FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO FULLY DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF HIS MALEFIC DOINGS...
...BUT I SHALL PUT MY NASCENT INTELLECT TO THAT TASK AT ONCE. THIS MUCH I ALREADY SENSE...THAT WHILE YOU WILL HAVE A SPECIFIC ROLE TO PLAY IN THE VANQUISHING OF THIS MAD GOD--
--IT WILL BE OTHERS WHO DIRECTLY BRING HIM DOWN. NOT EVEN THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE HAS TO PLAY A KEY ROLE IN EVERY COSMIC CRISIS.


HOW MUCH OF EON'S MEMORY SURVIVES IN YOU, EPOCH?
POTENTIALLY ALL.
IT WILL TAKE TIME TO ACQUIRE. HOWEVER.
I DO RECALL A MESSAGE MOTHER WISHED TO GIVE YOU:
"QUASAR, IF YOU ARE HEARING THIS, I AM DEAD.
"BUT DO NOT THINK THE UNIVERSE POORER FOR IT. I HAVE PERFECT CONFIDENCE THAT MY DAUGHTER WILL SOON BE ABLE TO TAKE MY PLACE IN THE COSMIC SCHEME OF THINGS.
"SHE WILL NEED YOUR HELP, HOWEVER. WHEREAS I WAS YOUR MENTOR, YOU WILL HAVE TO BE HERS. YOU WILL HAVE TO HELP HER ALONG AS SHE GROWS INTO OMNISCIENCE.
"I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE OF YOU NOW FOREVER, BUT I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE FULFILLED ALL OF MY CONSIDERABLE EXPECTATIONS OF YOU--
"--AND HAVE MADE ME PROUD. TRULY YOU ARE THE GREATEST OF MY CHAMPIONS.
"FROM THIS MOMENT ONWARD, YOUR DESTINY AS PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE IS YOUR OWN TO CHART. I KNOW YOU WILL BE UP TO IT. FAREWELL, QUASAR."
GOODBYE, EON...
...AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING.
NEXT: LIFE BEYOND THE GAUNTLET!

STELLARGRAMS

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

KELLY CORVESE: EDITOR

Dear Marvel,

Greetings and salutations. I'm a first timer when it comes to writing letters, but I have been reading Marvel for the last decade and a half.

I just wanted to congratulate you on the job that the QUASAR creative team is doing. Of all the titles to come out in the last two years, QUASAR is by far the most interesting and entertaining. I realize how strong a statement that is, what with the quality of titles such as NAMOR, THE GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY, and THE NEW WARRIORS; but I'm willing to stick by it.

Where else but Quasar can you find characters like Eon, Kronos, Makkari, and now the Jack of Hearts? Mark Gruenwald is doing a superb job of revitalizing characters I'd thought were put out to pasture years ago. If the quality of this title stays as is, then I'm here for the duration.

I think I know at least some of what Mr. Gruenwald has in store for us. There is little doubt in my mind that Miss Steckley is MOONDRAGON. It makes sense; she's arrogant, she's had martial arts training, and she takes her hair off before bathing. There are very few established characters who meet these prerequisite.

I'm going to go out on a limb here and state that the threat to Eon, the being conversing with Kronos at the beginning of issue #19 is none other than *Maelstrom* the Deviant/Inhuman being who was rendered discorporate in AVENGERS #250. This makes sense as I believe *Maelstrom* was the last person to have his atoms spread across the universe. This would also explain *Deathurge's* interest in the novice Protector of the Universe in issue #2, as the 'Big D' was one of *Maelstrom's* minions in the past.

Eric Schneiderhan
536 Hope St.
Providence, R.I.
02906

Congratulations, Eric. Yours was the first letter we received to correctly identify Maelstrom as the cosmic threat first mentioned back in issue #2. Though you also figured out Miss Steckley's identity, too, you weren't the first on that front. Take a read...

Dear Stellargrams,

About QUASAR #19: Is Miss Steckley Moondragon in disguise? Was that Gargoyle being towed by the Jack of Hearts? This would seem to fit. Kronos, who appeared in this issue, created Eon. Quasar is Eon's protector. Could that being that spoke with Kronos be the threat to Eon? Kronos was a first generation Eternal that moved to Titan. Moondragon was raised on Titan where she learned some martial arts which she used to slip Quasar, and she learned powers of the mind which is how she knew where Eon was, and how she was able to get clients for Quasar's business so that she'd be hired and could get closer to Eon. The arrogant attitude is there, and most obviously, she took a wig off before taking a bath. Moondragon and Gargoyle were both in DEFENDERS, as was Dr. Strange. I don't know if that's relevant yet. Moondragon was supposedly dead, and I don't know how Gargoyle ended up on the Stranger's world. I'll be reading future issues to see if I'm right and if so how you can explain everything.

Steve Grunewald
Rt. 1, Box 128
Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

Congratulations, Steve, you were the first to correctly nail Ms.Steckley's true identity. Our previous correspondent, plus Eric Draves of Chicago, IL and Dave South of Kirksville, MO--who also identified Maelstrom were also among the early few who put the clues together. By now everything that's going to be explained has been. Looks like you missed Moondragon's resurrection in AVENGERS SPOTLIGHT #16, 18, and 20 prior to this issue (it also explained what Gargoyle was doing in space, available to be snatched by the Stranger). In all your reasoning, your only slight error is the connection between Kronos and Eon--the account of the several hundred thousand year old Kronos creating the eight billion year old Eon were somewhat in error. Incidentally, folks, scripter Mark G. claims Steve G. is no relation as far as he's aware, despite the fact they're both from Wisconsin. He swears to it.

Dear Editor,

It isn't often I write a letter to a comic book, but Quasar #19 was soooooooo good I just couldn't resist! This is my favorite Marvel title! It has now taken the place of AVENGERS WEST COAST as the most entertaining comic you publish.

I'm really glad you're finally showing Eon's cosmic assassin, and I'm happy it's someone I've never heard of. This adds an aroma of mystery to the story.

Michael Krabbenhoft
RR 3 Box 262
Maquokets, IA 52060

Dear Quasar gang,

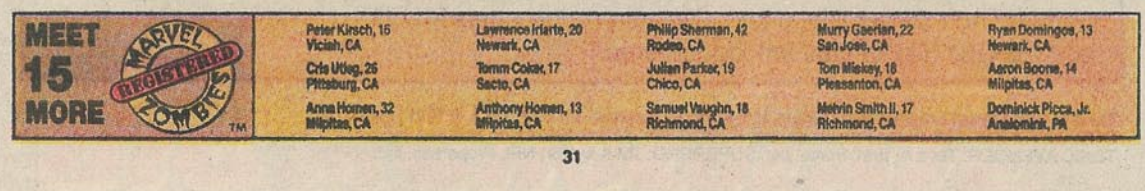
Have you ever known the satisfaction of something just all of a sudden clicking together? I must admit I was stumped for quite a while on just who that little purple fellow was in Quasar #19. It is now kind of embarrassing for I was originally going to write to you that he should appear here after "Cosmos in Collision". Then when I was thinking about something totally unrelated to this (isn't it always the case) it hit me like thunder, or a lightning bolt...or should I say a bio-kinetic energy field, eh?

But more on that later. I have other things to say, as well. I've found the various abstract entities you've depicted in issue #18 as allies with the "cosmic assassin" kind of unusual due to their few appearances. The first is Unbeing, the personification of that which exists before nothing. It may not be the best definition, but it's the best I could come up with, and it's suitable to the task. Besides I must not confuse it with the second member of the "dark triumverate," Oblivion. He that embodies non-existence. It took me about a couple of minutes to figure out who he was. After he said "oblivion," something clicked and I looked at the picture again, and sure enough the silhouette corresponded enough with him to cinch it.

But the third member, the leader, if that is truly him in issue #19, remained a mystery to me until now. Then, as I mentioned before, it came to me, just one word: Maelstrom. God, it was so simple, in fact I had even toyed with the idea to make him Quasar's main threat if I were to write the series about five months ago. Everything made sense, even before I raced back to #19 to make sure I was right. Maelstrom was rendered discorporate six years ago in AVENGERS #250. It probably would have taken three years to wander throughout the solar system until he met Kronos. Also the color of his skin, purple, is close to that of Maelstrom's original costume. It also explains Deathurge's experience in #2, you did say you were planning it from the beginning, right? He even fits Eon's description of the assassin: 1) Maelstrom is currently in space and 2) he was born on Earth and has attempted to rule or destroy it before. Was I the first to guess who it was? If not did the guy get it before #19, or just got his letter in first?

This issue left many questions unresolved. What was Master Chaos doing on page three? I can't imagine him wanting to do anything to upset the balance between him and Master Order. How did Sergei learn of Eon and why does he want to see him, it's doubtful that Maelstrom wanted to bother with such small potatoes as him. How did Spectrum return to normal? I suppose that the scientists at Pegasus managed to extract the fragments from his body, returning it to normal, while still allowing him to keep the power.

That's all for now although I must say that Greg Capullo is my favorite Quasar artist so far. I hope you can keep him on longer than the last two. So until Eon fires Quasar, Make Mine Marvel!

Chris "Marvel Zombie #1818" Dumell
Wonder Lake, IL 60097

Eon's in no position to fire anyone anymore, Chris, so yours is made. We're mighty happy gravity-bending Greg has signed up ourselves. Dazzling Dave Hoover did a bang-up job last issue while Greg took time off for his wedding and honeymoon (thanks, Dave--congrats Greg) but Greg just couldn't wait to get back to the monthly grind and intends to stay here for the long haul. And hey, that inker guy Keith Williams is no slouch either (sit up straight, Keith!).